PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 – 16 (Cancelled)

17. (Original) A base station in a CDMA communications network, the base station comprising:

a controller configured to schedule grant channels to carry grant messages to a plurality of scheduled mobile stations in an area of the CDMA communications network, the controller including a grant channel assignment module that operates to:

assign to a current mobile station in an ordering of the plurality of scheduled mobile stations, a previously unassigned grant channel from a list of grant channels monitored by the current mobile station; and

repeat the assignment for a next mobile station in the ordering of scheduled mobile stations, if there are more mobile stations to be processed in the ordering of the scheduled mobile stations;

a modulator configured to process and spread the grant messages; and

a transmitter unit configured to condition the processed grant messages, to generate a forward link signal, and to transmit the forward link signal on grant channels.

18. (Original) The base station of claim 17, wherein each message in the grant messages include messages specific to a mobile station.

19. (Original) The base station of claim 17, wherein the grant messages include Reverse Enhanced Supplemental Channel (R-ESCH) grants.

20. (Original) The base station of claim 17, wherein the controller includes:

a rearrangement module configured to rearrange the order for the plurality of scheduled mobile stations, and to repeat the assignment process executed by the grant channel assignment

module, if not every grant channel has been assigned a mobile station, if not every grant channel has been assigned a mobile station.

21. (Original) The base station of claim 20, wherein the rearrangement module rearranges the order of the list of grant channels monitored by the current mobile station.

22. (Original) The base station of claim 21, wherein the rearrangement module rearranges the list order by rotating the order of the plurality of scheduled mobile stations.

23. (Original) The base station of claim 17, wherein the previously unassigned grant channel includes a first available grant channel from the list of grant channels monitored by the current mobile station.

24. (Original) The base station of claim 17, wherein the plurality of scheduled mobile stations is a subset of a total number of mobile stations operating within the area.

Claims 25 – 32 (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A CDMA communications network, comprising:

a first plurality of mobile stations operating within the CDMA communications network; and

a base station, comprising:

a controller configured to schedule grant channels to carry grant messages to a plurality of scheduled mobile stations in an area of the CDMA communications network, the controller including a grant channel assignment module that operates to assign to a current mobile station in an ordering of the plurality of scheduled mobile stations, a previously unassigned grant channel from a list of grant channels monitored by the current mobile station; and repeat the assignment for a next mobile station in the ordering of scheduled mobile stations,

if there are more mobile stations to be processed in the ordering of the scheduled mobile stations;

a modulator configured to process and spread the grant messages; and

a transmitter unit configured to condition the processed grant messages, to generate a forward link signal, and to transmit the forward link signal on grant channels.

34. (Original) The communications network of claim 33, wherein the controller in the base station further includes:

a rearrangement module configured to rearrange the order for the plurality of scheduled mobile stations, and to repeat the assignment process executed by the grant channel assignment module, if not every grant channel has been assigned a mobile station, if not every grant channel has been assigned a mobile station.

35. (Original) The communications network of claim 34, wherein the rearrangement module rearranges the order of the list of grant channels monitored by the current mobile station.

36. (Original) The communications network of claim 35, wherein the rearrangement module rearranges the list order by rotating the order of the plurality of scheduled mobile stations.

37. (Original) The communications network of claim 33, wherein the previously unassigned grant channel includes a first available grant channel from the list of grant channels monitored by the current mobile station.

38. (Original) The communications network of claim 33, wherein the plurality of scheduled mobile stations is a subset of a total number of mobile stations operating within the area.